

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 46/27/96

9 December 1996

Further information on UA 277/96 (AMR 46/23/96, 27 November 1996) - Fear for safety / Prisoner of conscience

PERUGeneral Rodolfo ROBLES ESPINOZA, retired army general

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Prisoner of conscience Rodolfo Robles Espinoza, a retired army general and human rights defender, was released on 7 December 1996, following 11 days in military custody.

General Robles, a vociferous critic of Peru's military establishment and of President Alberto Fujimori's government, was released following the approval, by Congress, of an amnesty law proposed by the Executive.

The arbitrary detention of General Robles on 26 November 1996, and the filing of military charges against him, elicited a major outcry in Peru among different sectors of civil society protesting his innocence. International human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, also vigorously protested General Robles' detention. All of them called for his immediate release.

It was in the context of this outcry that the amnesty law favouring general Robles' release was rushed through by Peru's Executive and Congress. His release took place on the day the amnesty law came into effect.

**No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**